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STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITHIN THE ECE REGION: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL/SUBREGIONAL GROUPINGS, INITIATIVES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

- This note supplements the information contained in document E/ECE/1368.

- Tables 1 and 2 specific information on the activities of the Regional Advisers and provide a list of workshops, seminars, study tours and training courses organized since March 1998 or already planned to be organized in the future. These include events organized directly by ECE and those to which ECE has contributed or given support.

- Table 3 summarizes operational activities undertaken for subregional groupings/special initiatives/programmes.

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Table 1. Activities of regional advisers

Country visited	Purpose
	ENERGY
Belarus	- To launch an ECE/UNDP project on sustainable forestry management and reduction of adverse environmental impact by the utilisation of wood residue resources for production of heat power, Minsk, 9-13 March, 1998 - To implement the ECE/UNDP project on the utilisation of wood residue resources for production of heat power, Minsk, 6-17 July 1998 - To attend the 3rd Belorussian Energy and Ecology Congress and to implement the project on the utilisation of wood residue resources for production of heat power, Minsk, 28-30 October 1998
Bosnia and Herzegovina	- To service the 3rd SECI PWG meeting on interconnection of natural gas networks, Sarajevo, 17-19 May 1998
Italy	- To attend International Forum on Energy Security in the Third Millennium, Como, 14-16 May 1998
Kyrgyzstan	- To participate in the 1st SPECA meeting of experts and 1st meeting of SPECA PWG, Bishkek, 17-23 November 1998
Russian Federation	- To participate in the Conference and business consultative meeting on Russia and other CIS countries' energy potential, and consultations in CIS Interstate Economic Committee, Moscow, 31 March-2 April 1998 - To select energy efficiency projects in the Russian Federation for implementation with Norwegian support, St.Petersburg, Moscow, 2-6 June 1998 - To prepare and service the Workshop on Energy Efficiency and Security in CIS Countries, Moscow, 23 September-3 October 1998 - To conduct training course on financial engineering for energy efficiency projects, to prepare Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones for Chuvashya and draft report for CIS project, Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Cheboksary, 29 November-9 December 1998
Slovenia	- To service the 3rd SECI PG meeting on Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zone Network in South-Eastern Europe, Maribor, 12 June 1998

Country visited	Purpose
Ukraine	- To negotiate with Governmental officials on implementation of Energy Efficiency projects in Ukraine and to assist local experts to prepare project proposals, Kiev, Zaporozhie, Nikolaev, Simferopol, 12-24 October 1998
ENVIRONMENT	
Austria	- To participate in the NATO-CCMS Workshop on Environment and Security in an International Context, Vienna, 23-24 March 1998 - To participate in the SECI Project Group on rivers, lakes, seas, Vienna, 22 October 1998
Belgium	- To participate in the SECI Danube recovery project group and consult with EC representatives on cooperation with PHARE and TACIS, Brussels, 16-17 April 1998
Bosnia and Herzegovina	- Consultations with environmental and water authorities, 25-27 October 1998
China	- To contribute to the Conference on Sustainable Development, Urumqi, 12-18 September 1998
Croatia	- To prepare a project on best agricultural practices under the ECE Water Convention and deliver a lecture, Zagreb, 24-27 March 1998 - Consultations on ECE Water Convention, Zagreb, 11-12 May 1998 - To deliver a lecture on sustainable transboundary management of water, Dubrovnik, 13-15 May 1998 - Preparation of project proposal on best agricultural practices, advisory consultations on environmental aspects of national energy strategy and preparation of the Congress on Energy and Environment, Rijeka, 1-5 July 1998 - Consultations on the project proposal on good agricultural practice, Zagreb, 23 October 1998 - Facilitation of the sub-regional congress on Energy and Environment and workshop on land-based pollution, Opatija, 28-30 October 1998 - To prepare projects under 1997-2000 work-plan and a SECI project on reconstruction and development of Croatia, Zagreb, 4-5 December 1998
Estonia	- To attend inaugural meeting of the Estonian-Russian bilateral commission on transboundary waters and to prepare an International Conference on pollution of international lakes, Tallinn, 1-5 April 1998

Country visited	Purpose
Finland	- Consultations with the Bureau member of the ECE Water Convention, Helsinki, 7-8 July 1998
France	- To participate in the Sub-Committee on Environment of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 22 April 1998
Hungary	- To work on the preparation of a project proposal for laboratory quality management under the ECE Water Convention, Budapest, 20-21 July 1998 - To attend the meeting of the Working Group on Water, 23-27 September 1998 - To participate in the legal Task Force under the ECE Water Convention, to prepare protocol on Water and Health, Budapest, 1-4 December 1998
Kazakhstan	- To attend the Conference of Ministers of Environment of Central Asian countries and consultations, Almaty, 21-26 April 1998
Kyrgyzstan	- To prepare the first meeting of SPECA PG on water and energy, Bishkek, 9-10 September 1998 - To participate in SPECA expert consultations and PG on energy and water, Bishkek, 18-21 November 1998
Netherlands	- To participate in the Bureau Meeting of the Water Convention and to participate in the Workshop on equating water laboratory work, Laleystad, 23-26 April 1998 - To prepare arrangements between the Meeting of the Parties to the ECE Water Convention and Water Forum 2000, and to discuss environmental contributions to EU Conference on Biological Farming, The Hague, 27-28 August 1998 - To participate in the Delta Conference, Amsterdam, 23-27 November 1998
United Kingdom	- To participate as invited speaker in the Seminar on Water Problems and to have discussion on project on legal advisory service under the ECE Water Convention, Dundee, 8-14 June 1998
United States of America	- To participate in the meeting with GEF on structured cooperation with the ECE Water Convention, Washington, 7-11 November 1998 - Consultations with UNDP on common activities in the ECE region, 11 November 1998

Country visited	Purpose
Uzbekistan	- To attend the session of the sustainable development committee for Aral Sea region, Tashkent, 18-20 May 1998 - To deliver a keynote speech to OSCE Seminar on Water, Tashkent, 19-23 September 1998
STATISTICS	
Austria	- To participate in and service the joint consultations on the European Comparison Programme, Vienna, 3-5 June 1998
Bulgaria	- Consultations with Bulgarian Statistical Office on capital stock estimation and related national accounts matters, Sofia, 26-29 October 1998
China	- To assist in handling an OECD workshop on the implementation of the 1993 SNA and present a paper on the treatment of inventories and capital gains in national accounts, Beijing, 12-16 October 1998
France	- To service the Special Session at the Conference of European Statisticians and to attend a meeting of the IMF Steering Committee on Ukraine, Paris, 18-20 May 1998 - To participate in the joint OECD/Eurostat/ECE meeting on linking CIS countries to the rest of Europe in the European Comparison Programme, Paris, 15 July 1998 - To participate in the OECD meeting on national accounts, meeting on ECP and special session for transition countries, Paris, 22-25 September 1998 - To participate in the 2nd meeting of the Canberra Group on Capital Stock Statistics and to attend OECD meeting on environmental accounting, Paris, 28 Sept.-1 Oct. 1998
Luxembourg	- To attend the meeting of the Steering Group on EU Statistical Cooperation with NIS and Mongolia, and to have consultations with members of Eurostat, Luxembourg, 3-4 March 1998 - To participate in the Eurostat Working Group on Harmonization of Consumer Price Indices, and Special session for Eurostat "candidate" countries in Eastern Europe, Luxembourg, 11-13 May 1998
Kyrgyzstan	- Consultations with officials of the National Statistical Office on national accounts and the hidden economy, Bishkek, 31 March-5 April 1998
Portugal	- To participate in the Eurostat meeting on purchasing power parities, Lisbon, 6-7 May 1998

Country visited	Purpose
Russian Federation	- Consultations with Goskomstat and CIS Office on capital stock estimation and related national accounts matters, Moscow, 3-6 November 1998
United States of America	- To attend Brookings Institution meeting on price indices for insurance and meeting of US Bureau of Labour Statistics International Working Group on price indices, Washington, 21-24 April 1998 - To present a paper on the measurement of the output of banks and similar financial institutions at a Brookings Institution workshop, Washington, 20 November 1998
TRADE	
Albania	- To attend meeting of the SECI Business Advisory Council, Tirana, 26-27 May 1998
Austria	- To attend 7th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Vienna, 21-30 April 1998 - To attend SECI Consultative meeting, Salzburg, 27-29 July 1998
Belarus	- To prepare with Belarus Ministries a project for UN/ECE BOT Group and to participate in the CIS meeting on standards, Minsk, 9-12 November 1998
Belgium	- To attend SECI meetings on Border Crossing Facilitation and on Danube Recovery, Brussels, 16-17 April 1998 - To attend 3rd meeting of the CEPS Working Party and to visit sponsors to ECE Forum on Intellectual Property Rights, Brussels, 4-5 May 1998 - To attend the EC/ECE meeting on the SECI Border Crossing project, Brussels, 14 October 1998
Bulgaria	- To prepare for a mission and conference of the BOT Group to advise the Government on matters relating to Public Private Partnerships in Infrastructure, Sofia, 15-17 April 1998 - To attend INTERCARGO'98 Conference, Sofia, 27 April 1998 - To attend SECI Business Advisory Council meeting, Sofia, 14-16 September 1998 - To attend BOT Seminar at Bulgarian Investment Forum and the SECI meeting on Stock Exchange, Sofia, 11-15 October 1998
Croatia	- To attend and make two presentations to the CEI Summit Economic Forum, Zagreb, 18-21 November 1998

Country visited	Purpose
Czech Republic	- To attend the Coordination meeting on the Trade Facilitation, Prague, 4 May 1998 - To participate in the 6th OSCE Economic Forum, Prague, 3-5 June 1998 - To attend ECE meeting on Revising the European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration, Prague, 28-29 Sept. 1998
Estonia	- To participate in the Seminar on the Privatisation of Public Utilities, Tallinn, 15 May 1998
Greece	- To participate in the SECI Border Crossing meeting, Thessaloniki, 19-20 March 1998 - To attend the SECI Business Advisory Council meeting, Thessaloniki, 29-30 March 1998 - To participate in the meeting of the Royaumont Process on Stability, Athens, 31 March-1 April 1998 - To attend SECI Border Crossing meeting, Corfu, 29 May 1998 - To attend the inauguration of the Greek national trade facilitation body, Athens, 29 June 1998 - To attend SECI PWG on border crossing, Crete, 1-3 October 1998
Iran	- To attend the Asian EDIFACT Board meeting and EDICOM Conference, Tehran, 7-10 July 1998 - To participate in the Training Seminar on Trade Facilitation, Tehran, 7-10 November 1998
Kazakhstan	- To attend SPECA PG meeting on transport, Almaty, 19-22 October 1998
Latvia	- To prepare a visit of UN/ECE REAG to Latvia at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Riga, 23-25 March 1998
Romania	- To discuss SECI Project on Crime and Corruption, Bucharest, 6 May 1998
Slovenia	- To participate in the Conference on Electronic Commerce, Bled, 7-10 June 1998
Turkey	- To attend OECD Forum on Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development, Istanbul, 17-19 March 1998 - To attend the meeting on trade facilitation, Istanbul, 8-9 October 1998

Country visited	Purpose
United Kingdom	- To prepare ECE Forum on Intellectual Property Rights with WP.5 Chairman, London, 20 March 1998 - To attend meeting of ECE BOT Group with EBRD to discuss sponsorship by EBRD of BOT Group's work, London, 6 April 1998 - To prepare and launch Terre Initiative of the UN/ECE REAG Group, London, 17 July 1998 - To liaise with BOT Group members on sponsorship and have discussions with EBRD on Terre Initiative funding, 3-4 September 1998
United States of America	- To participate in SECI Coordinating meeting, Washington, 4 5 November 1998
TRANSPORT	
Austria	- To attend the 5th meeting of the TINA Steering Group, Baden, 23-24 March 1998
Belgium	- To participate in the preparatory meeting for St.Petersburg Inter-national Euro-Asian Conference on Transport, Brussels, 23 March 1998
Bosnia and Herzegovina	- To provide assistance to the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communications in the field of transport infrastructure and facilities, Sarajevo, 19-20 March 1998
Hungary	- To discuss with TINA representatives TER project activities in Hungary, Budapest, 2-3 March 1998
Kazakhstan	- To attend the TRANSEURASIA'98 Conference and have discussions with the Ministry of Transport, Almaty, 19-21 May 1998 - To attend SPECA PWG on transport issues, Almaty, 18-22 October 1998
Lithuania	- To have the Government sign the TER Trust Fund Agreement and develop a programme of cooperation, Vilnius, 22-23 Oct. 1998
Poland	- To discuss with TINA representatives TEM project activities in Poland, Warsaw, 12-13 March 1998

Country visited	Purpose
Russian Federation	- To attend the 2nd International Transport Conference for the development of transport connections between Western Europe, Mediterranean and the Black Sea, Sochi, 2-3 April 1998 - To participate in the Steering Committee meeting on the St.Petersburg Conference on Transport, St.Petersburg, 17 April 1998 - Advisory mission to the Russian Federation, Moscow, 20-23 April 1998 - To attend International Euro-Asian Conference on Transport, St.Petersburg, 12-13 May 1998
Thailand	- To attend the 3rd meeting of RICAP Subcommittee on infrastructure development and the first session of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development, Bangkok, 17-20 November 1998
Turkey	- Discussions on Turkish and regional transport issues, Ankara, 8-9 September 1998
Turkmenistan	- To attend the International Road Federation Silk Road Conference, Ashgabat, 15-17 April 1998
COORDINATING UNIT FOR OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES	
Austria	- To participate in International Conference on SME'98 Technology Days, Vienna, 3-4 December 1998
Belgium	- Participation in Donor's Committee Meeting on SMEs and on Financial Sector Development, Brussels, 3-5 March 1998 - To discuss possible cooperation with EC on ECE Regional Adviser's Programme on SMEs development, Brussels, 27-28 May 1998 - Participation in SECI Meeting on Financing SMEs, Brussels, 14-15 October 1998
Germany	- To participate in the first Economic Conference on Central Asia, Bonn, 5-6 November 1998
Hungary	- Participation in meeting PALOCLAND'98 on Crossboundary Cooperation, Salgotarjan, 21-23 April 1998
Italy	- To facilitate the Seminar on "The Role of Governments in Enterprise Creation and Support to SMEs", Potenza, 23-26 September 1998 - To develop project on Training of SME Trainers at the ILO Training Centre and European Training Foundation, Torino, 19-20 October 1998

Country visited	Purpose
Malta	- To discuss project proposal on a possible ECE workshop on information in R&D activities, and to participate in CSTD Working Group meeting on S&T partnership, Valletta, 28-30 September 1998
Republic of Moldova	- To discuss SECI project with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy and participate in BSEC workshop on SMEs - Their need for Financial and Human Resources, Chisinau, 17-21 November 1998
Kazakhstan	- To participate in the Subregional meeting of UNDP Resident Representatives, Almaty, 7 March 1998 - To discuss possible creation of SPECA Working Group on SME development, Almaty, Astana, 24-28 August 1998 - To participate in SPECA PG meeting, Almaty, 16-23 Oct. 1998
Kyrgyzstan	- To assist in the preparation for the 1st session of SPECA Project Working Group on Water and Energy, Bishkek, 14-16 September 1998 - To participate in SPECA PWG, Bishkek, 18-21 November 1998
Romania	- Participation in BSEC Workshop on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, Mangalia, 6-8 May 1998
Russian Federation	- Preparatory work for St.Petersburg Economic Forum, Moscow, 11-15 June 1998 - Substantive work for the Economic Forum, St.Petersburg, 16-20 June 1998 - To attend the World Economic Forum's special meeting on Russia, Moscow, 4-5 December 1998 - To participate in the Conference on the experience of restructuring in the coal mining sector, Mezhdurechensk, 26 December 1998
Slovenia	- To advise the Ministries of Economic Affairs and Small Business in elaboration of the new strategy of the CEI Working Group on SMEs, Ljubljana, Maribor, 7-9 September 1998
Tajikistan	- To collect information and discuss with Tajik authorities on the strategy for economic development within SPECA framework, Dushanbe, 5-12 January 1999

Country visited	Purpose
Turkey	- Participation in BSEC Expert Meeting on SMEs, Istanbul, 24-27 March 1998 - Participation in Forum on Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development, Istanbul, 2-4 June 1998 - Participation in OECD Forum on Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development, Istanbul, 8-10 December 1998
Ukraine	- Consultations on strategic issues of economic development at the Ministry of Economy, Kiev, 22-23 June 1998
Uzbekistan	- To participate in the SPECA Summit, Tashkent, 26 March 1998

Table 2. Workshops, seminars, training courses and study tours

Division	Title
ENERGY	Workshops/seminars 1. Conference on Mediterranean Gas at the Crossroads, Istanbul, Turkey, 21-22 April 1998 2. Seminar and study tour on clean coal technologies, United States of America, 27 April-9 May 1998 3. Workshop on power engineering and symposium on lighting engineering, Maribor, Slovenia, 12-14 May 1998 4. Joint ECE/EuroGeoSurveys seminar on practical implementation of UN Framework Classification of Reserves/Resources (UNFC) in EU member states, Brussels, Belgium, 17 May 1998 5. Seminar on restructuring of the coal industry and coal-fired power sector in economies in transition, Varna, Bulgaria, 25-27 May 1998 6. Conference on transport of natural gas in a liberalised European gas market, Bratislava, Slovakia, 26-27 May 1998 7. Joint EU/ECE workshop on energy efficiency standards and labels, Rome, Italy, 28 September 1998 8. First Workshop on energy efficiency and security in the CIS countries, Moscow, Russian Federation, 28-30 September 1998 9. Conference on reform and restructuring of the gas industry in economies in transition, Milan, Italy, 5 October 1998 10. Workshop on the Internet Energy Efficiency 2000 project Website, Geneva, 5-6 October 1998 11. Joint ECE/ESCAP seminar on implementation of the UN Framework Classification in Great Mekong sub-region, Bangkok, 15-16 October 1998 12. Workshop on harmonization of national regulations, standards and procedures for certification of equipment and materials used in the mining industry, Szczyrk, Poland, 15-17 Oct. 1998 13. Workshop on conservation of energy and resources, Minsk, Belarus, 28-30 November 1998 14. Workshop on energy efficiency in municipalities, Sofia, Bulgaria, 9-11 December 1998 15. Subregional seminar on UNFC in Indonesia and south-east Asia, Jakarta, Indonesia, 16-17 December 1998 16. Seminar on commercial bank financing of energy efficiency projects in central and eastern Europe, Prague, Czech Republic, 28-29 January 1999 17. Seminar on the implementation of EU Gas Directives, Szirak, Hungary, 1-3 March 1999 18. Joint EU/ECE workshop on energy efficiency standards and labels, Brussels, Belgium, 4-5 March 1999 19. Workshop on energy efficiency demonstration zones, Moscow, Russian Federation, 10-13 March 1999

Division	Title
ENERGY (cont.)	Planned: 20. The Mediterranean Gas Conference: Preparing for the Next Era, Palermo, Italy, 13-14 April 1999 21. Second Workshop on energy efficiency and security in the CIS countries, Moscow, Russian Federation, 22-23 April 1999 22. Workshop on power engineering and symposium on lighting engineering, Maribor, Slovenia, 12-14 May 1999 23. Symposium on energy savings, Riga, Latvia, May 1999 24. Seminar on gas contracting, Norway, May/June 1999 25. Seminar and study tour on clean coal technologies, Czech Republic, 3-5 June 1999 26. Conference on opening up of the gas and electricity markets in the ECE region, Prague, Czech Republic, 21-22 June 1999 27. Seminar on restructuring of the coal and thermal power sectors including the ecological aspects, Ustron, Poland, 14-16 October 1999 28. Workshop on energy efficiency demonstration zones in BSEC countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 1999 <u>Training courses</u> 1. Business planning and financial engineering, Nizhny Novgorod, Russian Federation, 20-23 April 1998 2. Financial engineering for Russian speaking energy efficiency demonstration zones managers, Nizhny Novgorod, Russian Federation, 30 Nov.-3 Dec. 1998 3. Financial engineering for managers involved in the implementation of energy efficiency projects, Korolev, Russian Federation, 8-11 February 1999 Planned: 4. Gas pricing, Groningen, Netherlands, 14-19 March 1999 5. Business planning and financial engineering, Katowice, Poland, June 1999
ENVIRONMENT	<u>Workshops/seminars</u> 1. Workshop on points of contact under Industrial Accidents Convention, Minsk, Belarus, 2-3 April 1998 2. Workshop on equating water laboratory work, Netherlands, Laleystad, 23-25 April 1998 3. Workshop on the prevention of chemical accidents and the limitation of their impact on transboundary waters, Berlin, Germany, 7-9 May 1998 4. Ninth CCE Workshop on mapping critical loads and levels, Kristiansand, Norway, 11-14 May 1998

Division	Title
ENVIRONMENT (cont.)	5. Workshop on the quantification of the effects of air pollution on materials, Berlin, Germany, 25-27 May 1998 6. Subregional Workshop on land administration reform in the Baltic states, Riga, Latvia, 27-29 May 1998 7. EMEP/WMO Workshop on data analysis and interpretation, Helsinki, Finland, 14-18 September 1998 8. Workshop on the Bug river basin pilot project, Zamose, Poland, 30 September-3 October 1998 9. Workshop on biological assessment and monitoring, Zakopane, Poland, 12-13 October 1998 10. Workshop on Ipel/Ipoly river catchment ares pilot project, Balassagyarmat, Hungary, 13-15 October 1998 11. Workshop on the Latorytsya/Latorica-Uzh/Uh river basin pilot project, Kosice, Slovakia, 28-30 October 1998 12. Workshop and study tour on the Masos river pilot project, Hungary and Romania, 2-6 November 1998 13. OECD/ECE Workshop on new developments in chemical emergency preparedness and response, Lappeenranta, Finland, 3-6 November 1998 14. Workshop on the Moravia river basin pilot project, Bratislava, Slovakia, 12-13 November 1998 15. Workshop on land market development, Budapest, Hungary, 30 November-2 December 1998 Planned: 16. Workshop on the significance of ECE policies and instruments for the sustainable development of Central Asian countries, Geneva, 15-16 March 1999 17. Workshop for high-level decision makers of Central Asian states on experience of countries with limited water resources in strategy on public awareness in water conservation, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 30-31 March 1999 18. Workshop on river and lake commissions, Bonn, Germany, 14-15 September 1999 19. Seminar on the prevention of chemical accidents and limitations of their impact on transboundary waters, Hamburg, Germany, 4-6 October 1999 20. Seminar on flood prevention and protection, Berlin, Germany, 7-8 October 1999 21. Workshop on land-based pollution control in catchment areas of international lakes, Tallinn, Estonia, Nov. 1999 22. ECE/OECD Workshop on enhancing the environment by reforming energy prices, Czech Republic, June 2000

Division	Title
ENVIRONMENT (continued)	Training courses 1. Basic principles of industrial safety, Budapest, Hungary, 30 September-2 October 1998 Planned: 2. Points of contact under Industrial Accidents Convention, Moscow (Noginsk), Russian Federation, 7-8 June 1999
STATISTICS	Workshops 1. Workshop on human development and social trends reporting for the CIS countries, Kiev, Ukraine, 4-7 March 1998 2. Workshop on family budget surveys in CIS, Minsk, Belarus, 12-17 March 1998 3. Workshop on pilot censuses and census processing for CIS and Mongolia, Moscow, Russian Federation, 31 March-4 April 1998 4. Workshop on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) planning for CIS and Eastern Europe, Bratislava, Slovakia, 27-29 April 1998 5. Seminar on Integrated Statistical Information Systems, Geneva, 27-29 May 1998 6. Workshop on GIS for central and eastern Europe, Bled, Slovenia, 22-26 June 1998 7. Workshop on labour force surveys for CIS and Mongolia, Kiev, Ukraine, 14-19 September 1998 8. Work Session on Geographical Information Systems, Ottawa, Canada, 5-7 October 1998 9. ECE/WHO Joint meeting on health statistics, Rome, Italy, 14-16 October 1998 10. Workshop on census post-collection activities for CIS, Central and Eastern Europe, and Mongolia, Dublin, Ireland, 11-14 November 1998 11. Workshop on gender statistics for Romania and the Balkan countries, Bucharest, Romania, 27-29 January 1999 12. Workshop on the management of statistical information technology, Geneva, 15-17 February 1999 Planned: 13. Joint ECE/Eurostat workshop on statistical data confidentiality, Thessaloniki, Greece, 8-10 March 1999 14. Workshop on gender statistics for the Central Asian Republics, and possibly Caucasus countries, Almaty, Kazakhstan, March 1999 15. Workshop on statistical data editing, Rome, Italy, 4-6 June 1999 16. Workshop on statistical metadata, Geneva, 22-24 September 1999

Division	Title
TRADE	Workshops/seminars 1. Seminar on forestry training for target groups that are hard to reach, France, 20-24 April 1998 2. Seminar on economic aspects of clean technologies, energy and waste management, Linz, Austria, 22-24 April 1998 3. First Baltic Conference on forest fire, Poland, 4-8 May, 1998 4. Seminar on the privatisation of public utilities, Tallinn, 15 May 1998 5. Workshop on certification of sustainable forest management in countries in transition, Prague, Czech Republic, 30 August-2 September 1998 6. Seminar on improving working conditions and increasing productivity in forestry, Banska Stiavnica, Slovakia, 9-12 September 1998 7. Workshop on recycling, energy and market interactions, Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 November 1998 8. Workshop on trade finance, Istanbul, Turkey, February 1999 9. Forum on improving trade finance and investment for the Russian timber sector, Geneva, 26 February 1999 Planned: 10. Seminar on analysis, methodology of treatment and remediation of contaminated soils, Paris, France, 13-15 April 1999 11. Workshop on radioactive contaminated metallurgical scrap, Prague, Czech Republic, 26-28 May 1999 12. Workshop on reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems, Germany, September 1999 13. Seminar on forest operations of tomorrow, Pessac, France, 20-24 September, 1999 14. Seminar on digital economy and internet enterprise development in transition economies, Geneva, November 1999 15. Workshop on capacity building to improve trade finance and investment prospects for the Russian timber sector, Geneva, 3 December 1999 16. Workshop on development of marketing of sawnwood in countries in transition, Minsk, Belarus, 1999 or 2000 17. Seminar on competitiveness in basic industries: trends in the structure of steel consumption, Budapest, Hungary, May 2000 Study tours 1. Study tour on the Portuguese chemical industry, Portugal, 11-17 July 1998

Division	Title
TRADE (cont.)	Planned: 2. Forest and forest industries study tour in Ireland, Ireland, 5-11 September 1999 3. Study tour on the Chinese steel industry, 15-22 Oct. 2000
TRANSPORT	<u>Workshops/seminars</u> 1. TEMSTAT coordination and training Meeting - Southern Group, Istanbul, Turkey, 25-27 March 1998 2. TEMSTAT coordination and training Meeting - Northern Group, Prague, Czech Republic, 30 March-1 April 1998 3. Workshop on preparation of TER railway projects, Budapest, Hungary, September 1998 4. Seminar on transport infrastructure financing in the Mediterranean, Barcelona, Spain, 27-30 October 1998 5. TER seminar on implementation of directives adopted by the EU, Paris, France, 1-3 February 1999 Planned: 6. Workshop on GIS in transport, 15-16 November 1999 7. Exchange of experiences on the programming of infrastructures and the dissemination of methods of programming in central and eastern European countries, Germany, November 1999 8. Workshop on methodology for traffic forecasting on the TER network, 1999 <u>Training courses</u> 1. Software for optimisation of loans - INNOFINITO, Prague, Czech Republic, 9-10 November 1998 2. Training workshop of TER experts on macro-economic evaluation of transport infrastructure investments, Budapest, Hungary, November 1998 Planned: 3. Implementation of TER data bank, Piran, Slovenia, March 1999 4. TEMSTAT training course, Vilnius, Lithuania, 7-9 April 1999

Division	Title
COORDINATING UNIT FOR OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES	<u>Workshops/seminars</u> 1. Workshop on SMEs and entrepreneurship, Mangalia, Romania, 7- 8 May 1998 2. Expert Meeting on best practice in financing SMEs, Geneva, 14-15 May 1998 3. Workshop on financing mechanism for renewable energy projects, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 30 September-2 October 1998 4. Seminar on the role of governments in enterprise creation and support to SMEs, Potenza, Italy, 23-26 September 1998 5. Workshop on SMEs - their needs for human and financial resources, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 19-20 November 1998 Planned: 6. Workshop on the role of local and regional Governments in enterprise creation, Yerevan, Armenia, 18-19 March 1999 7. Expert Meeting on best practice in business incubation, Geneva, 3-4 June 1999 8. Workshop on SMEs in action, Izmir, Turkey, September 1999 9. Workshop on regional tourism and local capacity building, Sochi, Russian Federation, October/November 1999 10. Workshop on economic efficiency of various renewable energy sources, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, autumn 1999 11. Workshop on information in research and development activities - obstacles and problems, Valetta, Malta, autumn 1999 <u>Training course</u> Planned: 1. Joint ECE/ESCAP training course on training of trainers in start-ups entrepreneurs for Central Asian transition economies", Almaty, Kazakhstan, 10-14 April 1999

Table 3. Operational activities for subregional groupings/special initiatives/programmes

Subregional groupings/ special initiatives/ programmes	Activities
Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)	- Joint organization of Workshops on SMEs: "SMEs and Entrepreurship" (Romania, May 1998); "SMEs - Their Needs in Financial and Human Resources (Republic of Moldova, November 1998: and "The Role of Local and Regional Governments in Enterprise Creation" (Armenia, March 1999). Two more workshops in this area are planned in Turkey (SMEs in Action) and Russian Federation (Regional Tourism and Local Capacity Building) next autumn. Preparation of a Workshop on Trade Finance (Turkey, February, 1999) - Development of a network of SME focal points for the BSEC countries - Review of the development of Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones in BSEC countries and financial mechanisms to be elaborated for realisation of energy efficiency projects in these Zones was prepared and proposed to BSEC secretariat as background material for a joint workshop - Participation in meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC participating States
Central European Initiative (CEI)	- Cooperation agreement on joint ECE/CEI cooperation programme was signed in May 1998. A focal point for ECE/CEI cooperation projects in the ECE secretariat was appointed in October 1998. Web page on this programme including an interactive version of the CEI forms for project presentation was prepared - The CEI Project Opportunity Methodology (project outline profile and organisation profile forms) was jointly prepared by ECE and EBRD - Support and substantive contribution was made to CEI Summit Economic Forum (Croatia, November 1998). A study on "Economic Disparities in Central and Eastern Europe and the Impact of EU Enlargement" was prepared. ECE materials on different issues related to economies in transition were distributed at the ECE stand - Ten project proposals were prepared and presented at the above Forum

Subregional groupings/ special initiatives/ programmes	Activities
Central European Initiative (CEI) (cont.)	- Assistance to the CEI Working Group on SMEs in preparation of strategy and work programme (discussion paper prepared) - Substantive contribution to the CEI/SECI Seminar on "The Role of Government in Enterprise Creation and support to SMEs" (Italy, September 1998)
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	- Participation in meeting of the Interstate Ecological Council (Georgia, December 1998). ECE was invited to assist CIS in the development of their convention on environmental security and in promoting Council's initiative on environmental impact assessment and information - Cooperation with the CIS Interstate Economic Committee. Cooperation with Interstate Eurasian Coal and Metals Community - Project "Energy Efficiency and Security in CIS Countries" was formulated and the first workshop on the subject was held in Moscow, September 1998. Another workshop is being prepared for April 1999 - Cooperation with the Interstate Statistical Committee. A Workshop on pilot censuses and census processing was held in Moscow in March-April 1998
Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)	- Implementation of the following projects is under way: (a) Trade facilitation - actions to overcome border crossing difficulties (lead country - Greece) (b) Transport infrastructure - identification of bottlenecks along main international corridors in the SECI region and short-term measures to remove them (lead country - Bulgaria) (c) Financial policies to promote SMEs through microcredit and credit guarantee schemes (lead country - Romania) (d) Energy efficiency demonstration zones network in southeast Europe (lead country - Hungary) (e) Interconnection of natural gas networks, diversification of gas supply and improvement of security of supply in southeast Europe (lead country - Bosnia and Herzegovina) (f) Recovery programme for rivers, lakes and adjacent seas (lead country - Austria) (g) Interconnection of electricity grids (lead country - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) (h) Cooperation among security markets (lead country - Turkey)

Subregional groupings/ special initiatives/ programmes	Activities
Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) (cont.)	(i) Combatting cross-border crime and corruption (lead country - Romania) - For each project, several project group meetings have been held. The ECE secretariat contributed to the organization of these meetings, prepared background documents and final reports - Efforts have been made to secure financial support for the projects and the involvement of the business community in their implementation
Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)	- The Tashkent Declaration on SPECA was signed on 26 March 1998 by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Turkmenistan officially informed of its decision to join the programme in September 1998 - The following projects have been selected for implementation under this programme: (a) Transport infrastructure and border crossing facilitation (lead country - Kazakhstan) (b) Rational and efficient use of energy and water resources of Central Asis lead country - Kyrgyzstan) (C) International economic conference (lead country - Tajikistan) (d) Regional cooperation in developing a multi-choice approach to hydrocarbon supply routes through pipelines to the world markets (lead country - Turkmenistan) (e) Subject of the project with Uzbekistan as a lead country has not yet decided - Project working groups (PWG) were established for each project. ECE experts in cooperation with ESCAP have contributed to the first sessions of PWG for projects (a) and (b), and conducted preparatory work for PWG sessions under the other projects - Terms of reference for creating a working group on SMEs between Central Asian transition economies was prepared.